

Life In Christ

Holiness, joy, peace, safety...everything we hunger for is found only in the presence of God. Scripture describes this, from the Garden of Eden to the tabernacle to the temple and finally to heaven, where God will live with His people. But the presence of God is experienced most intensely in the incarnation of Christ and the union of Christ with His disciples, through faith. In Christ, as Christ lives in us, we experience the strength and hope that we've been searching for.

Using the scripture below, follow the trail from the presence of God in the Old Testament to our union with Christ in the New Testament. Watch how the Spirit weaves our life with the life of Jesus.

In addition, Andrew Murray, a pastor/theologian who lived over 100 years ago, wrote a beautiful devotional that helps to strengthen this union. Using Jesus' illustration of the vine and the branches in John 15, Murray encourages us to remain, to abide, and to let the life of Jesus flow into us. You can download a free copy of his devotional by clicking here:

Andrew Murray - Abide In Christ.

May your union with Jesus, through faith, grow closer under the care of the Spirit. May you experience the joy of living in Christ, Christ living in you!

PRESENCE OF GOD

Exodus 25:30 - Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times.

Exodus 33:14 - The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Deuteronomy 4:37 - Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength

Deuteronomy 12:7 - There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

1 Samuel 2:21 - the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD

2 Samuel 22:13 - Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth.

2 Kings 17:18 - So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence

2 Chronicles 20:9 - If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

Ezra 9:15 - O LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence."

Psalms 16:11 - You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 21:6 - Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

Psalms 31:20 - In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.

Psalms 41:12 - In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.

Psalm 89:15 - Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

Psalm 90:8 - You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

Psalm 139:7 - Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

Isaiah 63:8,9 - He said, "Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me"; and so he became their Savior. In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them.

Hosea 6:2 - After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

Acts 2:28 - You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence

Romans 8:11 - if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

2 Corinthians 4:13,14 - With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence

DWELLING PLACE

Exodus 15:13 - In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Leviticus 26:11,12 - I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

Job 23:3,4 - If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

Psalm 27:5,6 - For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Psalm 84:1,2 - How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 90:1 - Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Psalm 91:9,10 - If you make the Most High your dwelling— even the LORD, who is my refuge— then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

Psalm 132:13,14 - For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it

Isaiah 32:18 - My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Ezekiel 37:27 - My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people

Ephesians 2:19-22 - you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

UNION WITH CHRIST

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Romans 6:5 - If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Romans 6:8-11 - if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:4 NLT - So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

Romans 8:1 - there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:10-11 - if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:37-39 - in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:4,5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others

1 Corinthians 1:30 NLT - God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

1 Corinthians 2:15,16 - The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:23 - you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

1 Corinthians 6:17 - he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:22 - For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 - no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 2:14 - thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 - if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them

Galatians 2:16 - we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 3:26-29 - You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 5:6 - in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Ephesians 1:3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-10 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Ephesians 1:11-14 - In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:18-23 - I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 2:6-7 - God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:10 - we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:13 - in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Philippians 3:8-11 - I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 4:7 - the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 - my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:25-27 - I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:28 - We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ

Colossians 2:9,10 - In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 2:17 - reality, however, is found in Christ.

Colossians 3:1-3 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:14 - The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:9 - This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time

2 Timothy 2:1 - be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:12 - everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

2 Timothy 3:15 - you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 6 - I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Hebrews 3:14: - We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

2 Peter 1:4 - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and

precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

1 John 4:16 - God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him

Revelation 3:20 - I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 21:3,4 - I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

TERMS USED IN SCRIPTURE FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Arms of God	Incarnation	Sabbath
Bible	Jerusalem	Salvation
Camp	Jesus in me	Sanctuary
Christ lives in me	Kingdom of God	Service
Church	Kingdom of Light	Shelter
Creation	Meditation	Shield
Commandments	Mount Zion	Spirit
Fellowship	Paradise	Stronghold
Fortress	Prayer	Tabernacle
God with us	Presence of God	Temple
Green pastures	Proclaiming/Preaching	Torah
Heaven	Quiet Waters	Vineyard
Immanuel	Refuge	Wisdom
In Jesus	Rock	Word

QUOTES:

Your real, new self (which is Christ's & also yours) won't come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him - CS Lewis

To become new means losing what we now call 'ourselves'. Out of ourselves, into Christ, we must go." - C. S. Lewis

Therefore, to that union of the head and members, the residence of Christ in our hearts, in fine, the mystical union, we assign the highest rank, Christ when he becomes ours making us partners with him in the gifts with which he was endued. Hence, we do not view him as at a distance and without us, but as we have put him on, and been ingrafted into his body, he deigns to make us one with himself, and, therefore, we glory in having a fellowship of righteousness with him – John Calvin, Institutes, 3.11.10

In this fallen state, human beings seek their identity "in themselves" or "in the flesh." They seek to be human apart from God. But of course, that is simply repeating the sin of Adam—following one's own wisdom rather than lovingly trusting in God. While fallen humans share the accidental characteristic of sinning, this characteristic does not completely vanquish the imago Dei, which Calvin says is a "participation in God. – J. Todd Billings – Union With Christ

MATERIAL FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Union With Christ – Billings

One With Christ – Johnson

Show Me The Way – Nouwen

Abide In Christ – Murray

Union With Christ – Smedes

Man in Christ - Stewart